

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 /161 W

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R 181206Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8217

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS: MISSING PA&E EMPLOYEES

REF: (A) SAIGON 17729; (B) STATE 201739

1. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE THREE MISSING ICCS EMPLOYEES ARE NOW PRISONERS OF THE PRG IN PHUC AN HAMLET MY PHUOC VILLAGE, THUAN HOA DISTRICT, NNA XUYEN PROVINCE.

2 CONGEN CAN THO REQUESTED CHAIRMAN ICCS REGION XII, HUNGARIAN COLONEL KOMLOSI, TO CALL OCTOBER 17 AND TOLD HIM IT WAS INFORMED THAT ARMED ELEMENTS OF PRG WERE HOLDING THREE PA&E EMPLOYEES PRISONER IN AN AREA 25 KM WEST OF KHAM HUNG. CON GEN AGAIN REQUESTED ICCS ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN THEIR RELEASE.

3. COL. KOMLOSI EXPLAINED THE USUAL DIFFICULTY, NAMELY THAT THERE IS NEITHER A COMPLETE FUNCTIONING ICCS NOR A COMPLETE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION IN CAN THO. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BE OF ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AND WOULD IMME-
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DIATELY INFORM THE OTHER ICCS DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS HIS

SUPERIORS IN SAIGON.

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONGEN'S REQUEST, HE SAID HE WOULD ASK HIS SAIGON SUPERIORS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED VALIDITY OF POINT THAT US AUTHORITIES HAD RENDERED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO ICCS IN ITS EARLY DAYS (REF B) AND THAT RECIPROCITY ON BEHALF OF AN AEMER-ICAN CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE WAS APPROPRIATE.

4. THERE WAS A SHORT SOMEWHAT CONFUSED EXCHANGE ON THE DELICATE SUBJECT OF WHO CONTROLS THE AREA IN WHICH HE SAID THE THREE PA&E EMPLOYEES ARE BEING HELD, THE UPSHOT OF WHICH HOWEVER, WAS THAT KOMLOSI SAID THE AREA WAS RVN CONTROLLED MOREOVER, KOMLOSI DID NOT REPEAT THE QTE BANDIT UNQTE MYTH AND LEFT UNCHALLENGED OUR ASSERTION THAT THE ABDUCTORS WERE VIET CONG. NO DID HE REITERATE THE VIEW EARLIER EXPRESSED BY THE POLES THAT RECOVERY IS GVN POLICE PROBLEM.

5. EMB IS ADDRESSING A SECOND THIRD PERSON NOTE TO THE ICCS GIVING THE SPECIFIC AREA WHERE THE THREE EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN SEEN AND ASKING THE ICCS TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM BOTH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES IN LOCATING AND RETURNING THEM TO SAFETY. IN INTEREST OF SAFETY THESE EMPLOYEES WE DID NOT MENTION IN NOTE THAT THEY HELD BY PRG.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB BELIEVES THAT REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTRIES IN BUDAPEST AND WARSAW WOULD BE HELPFUL AND REQUESTS THAT THEY BE MADE.

MARTIN

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